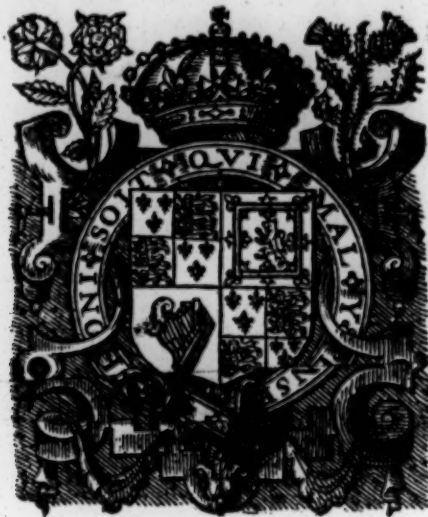


Steele 1095.

20 Aug. 1610.



¶ By the King.

¶ A Proclamation for the vtter abolishing of
the making of Starch of any stufte whatsoeuer,
within the Realme of England, and dominion of Wales.



Hereas heretofore many shewes and pre-
tences haue bene made from time to time, that Starch might and
should be made of cleane Branne, or of musty, vnseasony and vn-
wholsome Corne vnfit for mans food, or of some rootes or other
things that were not of the nature of food; By meanes whereof,
Licence and Toleration hath sometimes bene giuen for the ma-
king of the same within this Kingdome, both in our owne time,
and in the time of the late Queene Elizabeth, of famous memorie de-
ceased, And benefit and commoditie hath and might still haue redounded vnto Us, our heires
and successours, by the voluntary contributions of the makers of Starch within our
Realmes, if we would haue continued the same Toleration: But it hath appeared vnto Us
by Certificats from diuers parts of this our Realme, especially in the late times of Dearth
and scarcitie of Corne, that such makers of Starch did waste and consume Wheat, Meale,
Flower, and other like stufte, good and wholesome for the sustenance of our louing Subjects,
in great abundance: And it is still manifest by dayly experience, that though perhaps they
vse sometimes a little cleane Branne or vnwholsome Corne, yet it turnes all but to deceit,
and is vsed but as a colour, whilst they make indeed the great masse of their Starch of good
and perfect Wheat. Therefore, as soone as wee were certainly informed that this new,
vaine, superfluous and hurtfull practise of Starch making could not be continued in this our
Realme, without the intolerable losse and waste of so necessary a sustenance of life, as is
Wheat (which in the times of greatest plentie is by a prouident Prince to be preserved, as well
for the present vse, as for prouision against Dearth and scarcitie, which is euer to be feared, and
whereof we haue had so late and grienous experience.)

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And where we were further also informed by like Certificats, that the making of Starch brought with it another effect of as ill consequence as the former, by infecting the aire with a noysome sent for a great distance round about the places where the same was made, So as it was conceived to be no small cause of the breeding and nourishing of the plague, which hath so long afflicted this our Realme. When these things (as we haue said) appeared vnto Us, we did take it to be a necessary care and duty belonging vnto Us and our Crowne, to redresse so great an enormitie, being apparantly *malum in se*. And therefore we did with all convenient speed by our Proclamation, bearing date the tenth day of January last, straitly charge and command all maner of persons whatsoever, Licenced or vn-Licenced, that they should from and after certaine times now past, forbear to make any Starch within this our Realme of wheat, Rubbles of wheat, Pollard, Branne, or any other stufte or stufes whatsoever, as by the said Proclamation may appeare. Neuerthelesse, we are certainly informed, That there are in LONDON, and the Suburbs thereof, and in diuers other parts of this our Realme, sundry persons that still continue the making of Starch in high contempt of Us, and our said last Proclamation: which their contempts (though they can no way bee excused) yet we, (that desire by all meanes, aswell to guide and direct our Subiects to their due obedience, as to require the same at their hands,) haue thought fit in one onely direct and plaine Proclamation, to expresse our Selfe in this behalfe, That neither by varietie of Proclamations, nor by Tolerations or distinctions of persons or times any pretence of ignorance, doubtfull vnderstanding, or other excuse may bee made, either by the offendours themselves, or by the Iustices of the Peace, or other Officers that are to looke to the execution of our Proclamation in this behalfe. And therefore hauing fully resolved, that it is very requisite (for the causes aboue mentioned, and to take away all shifts and euasions whatsoever) absolutely to suppress and banish the making of Starch in all places of this our Realme of England, and Dominion of Wales wheresoever, aswell of wheat, Flowre, Beale, rubbles of wheat and Bran, as of roots or any other stufte whatsoever:

Wee doe now once againe signifie Our pleasure touching the same, to all our louing Subiects by this Our Proclamation, Willing, and straitly charging and commanding all and all maner of persons whatsoever, that they doe not at any time hereafter make, or cause to be made any maner of Starch, of any stufte whatsoever within this Our Realme and Dominion: And further, that they nor any of them doe at any time hereafter, sell or vtter, or cause to be sold or vttered to any person or persons whatsoever, any such Starch so to be made within the sayd Realme or Dominion. And furthermore, forasmuch as it is found by experience, that a speciall and chiefe cause of the dayly contempts heretofore committed in this behalfe, hath bene occasioned aswell by Grocers, Chandlers, and the like Retailors, as by other persons, who buy of the Makers very cheape, and thereof make great gaine, and for their gaine encourage and embolden the Makers and conueyors, (who being needy and meane persons are stirred with small profit, especially, when they are put in hope of escape or impunitie by persons of better condition,) wee doe therefore hereby Will and require, and straitly charge and command, not onely all and singuler Grocers, Chandlers, Retailors, and all maner of persons vsing the buying and selling & trading of Starch in any sort howsoever; but also al and singuler other our louing Subiects of what qualitie or condition soeuer, within our said Realme and Dominion: That they and euery of them doe hereafter vtterly forbear and refraine from buying or causing to be bought, either directly or indirectly, secretly or openly, any Starch what-

soever, knowing the same to be made within our said Realme or Dominion, contrary to this our expresse Will and royall pleasure hereby signified vnto them as aforesaid. And if any person or persons whatsoever, shall doe or presume to doe any thing against this our Proclamation or any part thereof, wee doe hereby let them know that we are fully resolved, and doe intend to proceed against all & every such offendour and offendours with severitie as shal besit the greatnesse of their contempts, in a matter so apparantly tending to the publique good and benefit of the Common wealth. And wee doe further by these presents straitly charge and command all and singuler Justices of peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bailiffes, Constables, headboroughs and all other our Officers and loving subiects whatsoever, vpon paine of our indignation and heavy displeasure, That they and every of them within their severall precincts doe from time to time, and at all times hereafter carefully and diligently see, and take order that this our royall Commandement be in all points fully and strictly obserued and obeyed, and that neither they nor any of them doe, or shall suffer any person or persons within their severall precincts to offend or doe any thing contrary thereunto: but that they doe from time to time by all fit meanes make search and inquirie, what person or persons shall offend against the tenour of this our Proclamation in any point. And if they the said Justices of peace, Maiors, Bailiffes, or other chiefe officers of Cities or Townes corporate, or any of them, shall finde or bee certainly informed of any person or persons offending in any the points aforesaid, That in such case they shall and do immediatly cause all and every such Offendour and Offendours of what qualitie or condition soever, to be apprehended and committed to prison to the common Gaole of the Countie or place where they doe or shall inhabite, there to remaine till they shall or will become bound with sufficient suretie no more to offend against this our Proclamation.